

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electronic control unit of an internal combustion engine performs preheat energization control before activation energization control. In the activation energization control, a gas sensor is energized with electric power capable of heating the gas sensor to activation temperature. In the preheat energization control, the gas sensor is energized with low electric power, which is not enough to heat the gas sensor to the activation temperature. Thus, while there is a possibility that water adheres to a sensor main body of the gas sensor, the sensor main body is prevented from being heated to high temperature. Meanwhile, even if water droplets exist in the sensor main body of the gas sensor, the water is vaporized gradually, while preventing the bumping of the water.